

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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PER-01 A-01 TRSE-00 /096 W
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R 241409Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4663
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, US, UR, OTRA, CSCE
SUBJECT: SOVIETS REPLY TO TRAVEL QUESTIONS

REF: (A) STATE 53419, (B) STATE 92184, (C) MOSCOW 8091,
(D) MOSCOW 8168

1. FOLLOWING IS INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF MFA
DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHICH ANSWERS QUESTIONS POSED REF A.
EMBASSY WILL POUCH 5 COPIES OF NOTE TO EUR/SOV.

2. "NO. 257/PR

THE PROTOCOL DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE USSR PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE EMBASSY OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND, REFERRING TO ITS NOTE
NO. 288 OF MARCH 6, 1978, HAS THE HONOR TO PROVIDE THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION.

(1). THE MINSK, SIMFEROPOL', AND YAROSLAVL' HIGHWAYS
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ARE OPEN FOR TRAVEL OF FOREIGN AUTOTOURISTS. THE
GORKIY HIGHWAY IS OPEN TO THE CITIES OF VLADIMIR AND
SUZDAL.

(2). THE CITY OF MOZHAYSK AND THE SETTLEMENT OF BORODIN
ARE LOCATED ON THE MOZHAYSK HIGHWAY, WHICH IS OPEN FOR
THE PASSAGE OF FOREIGN AUTOTOURISTS ON THE SECTION FROM

MODENOVO TO THE SETTLEMENT OF BORODINO.

(3). DURING TRIPS ALONG THE SIMFEROPOL' HIGHWAY FOREIGNERS MAY USE THE BYPASS ROAD TO THE EAST OF THE CITY OF SERPUKHOV, WHICH PASSES THROUGH THE POPULATED AREAS OF VASIL'YEVSKOYE-BUTURLINO-YAKOVLEVO.

(4). DURING TRIPS IN THE LENINGRAD OBLAST; ONE SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE LIST OF CITIES AND REGIONS IN THE USSR CLOSED TO VISITS BY FOREIGNERS, SENT TO THE EMBASSY ON JANUARY 4, 1978.

THE PROTOCOL DIVISION OF THE MINISTRY AVAILS ITSELF OF THIS OPPORTUNITY TO RENEW TO THE EMBASSY THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

3. COMMENT: MFA'S NOTE CONFIRMS MOST EMBASSY ASSUMPTIONS MADE REF C. IN ADDITION, MFA NOTE IMPLIES THAT IF TRAVELERS ARE SPECIFICALLY TRAVELING TO OR THROUGH SERPUKHOV THEY WILL BE ADMITTED. OTHERWISE, THEY WILL BE DIRECTED BY GAI TO USE BYPASS ROUTE. MFA'S ANSWER TO THE LENINGRAD QUESTION IS MOST CURIOUS FEATURE OF NOTE, SINCE IT CLEARLY IMPLIES THAT 1973 CLOSURE OF N.E. QUADRANT IS NO LONGER IN EFFECT.

4. FOR LENINGRAD: EMBASSY WILL POUCH RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COPY OF MFA NOTE TO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD AND WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF POST COULD TEST N.E. QUADRANT ISSUE ONCE AGAIN. PREVIOUS TESTS WITH RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE NOTES IN HAND (EXAMPLE: REF D) HAVE PROVED UNIFORMLY SUCCESSFUL.

5. THERE IS STILL NO REPLY FROM MFA ON QUESTIONS POSED REF B. TOON

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